

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
Plaintiff,) Case No. 4:06CR3062-3
)
vs.) **TENTATIVE**
)
JEFF PONDER,) **FINDINGS**
)
Defendant.)

I am in receipt of the revised presentence investigation report in this case. Except for the defendant's motion for downward departure or deviation due to overstatement of criminal history (filing 119), there are no objections or motions for departure or variance.

IT IS ORDERED that:

(1) The undersigned will consult and follow the Guidelines to the extent permitted and required by United States v. Booker, 125 S. Ct. 738 (2005). In this regard, the undersigned gives notice that, unless otherwise ordered, he will (a) give the advisory Guidelines substantial weight; (b) resolve all factual disputes relevant to sentencing by the greater weight of the evidence and without the aid of a jury; (c) impose upon the government the burden of proof on all Guideline-enhancements; (d) impose upon the defendant the burden of proof on all Guideline-mitigators; (e) depart from the advisory Guidelines, if appropriate, using pre-Booker departure theory; and (f) in cases where a departure using pre-Booker departure theory is not warranted, deviate or vary from the Guidelines only when there is a plainly superior, principled reason which justifies a sentence different than that called for by application of the advisory Guidelines.

(2) The motion for departure or deviation due to overstatement of criminal history (filing 119) is denied. The defendant will not be heard to complain that his

sentence is being unreasonably enhanced as a result of his inability to pay his obligations in another case when he has not provided the probation officer with a signed financial statement in this case. Furthermore, absent a showing that the defendant could not make the payments through no fault of his own, the failure to pay the financial obligations of probation is just as serious as the failure to comply with other provisions of probation. In short, the defendant's criminal history is not overstated.

(3) Except to the extent (if at all) that I have reserved an issue for later resolution in the preceding paragraph, the parties are herewith notified that my tentative findings are that the presentence report is correct in all respects.

(4) If **any** party wishes to challenge these tentative findings, said party shall, as soon as possible, but in any event at least five (5) business days before sentencing, file in the court file and serve upon opposing counsel and the court a motion challenging these tentative findings, supported by (a) such evidentiary materials as are required (giving due regard to the requirements of the local rules of practice respecting the submission of evidentiary materials), (b) a brief as to the law and (c) if an evidentiary hearing is requested, a statement describing why an evidentiary hearing is necessary and how long such a hearing would take.

(5) Absent submission of the information required by the preceding paragraph of this order, my tentative findings may become final and the presentence report may be adopted and relied upon by me without more.

(6) Unless otherwise ordered, any motion challenging these tentative findings shall be resolved at sentencing.

October 24, 2006.

BY THE COURT:

s/ Richard G. Kopf
United States District Judge